



Photo by John Enigl

Tuning in: George Gabert calls the Door County Amateur Radio Club together for on-the-air meetings Mondays through Saturdays.

Door County club tunes in regularly

By John Enigl

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STURGEON BAY — A club in Door County meets more often than there are days in the year, motivated primarily by 82-year-old George Gabert and his Good Morning Net.

The club is the Door County Amateur Radio Club.

Its four dozen members hold monthly meetings, talk informally over their two-way radios and get together for breakfast at a Sturgeon Bay restaurant each Saturday morning.

They also have a picnic, corn roast and fish boil in the summer and a dinner meeting in the winter. They go on field trips and attend "swap fests," where they buy and sell used radio equipment.

But the activity that accounts for the greatest number of meetings is the Good Morning Net.

At 8 a.m. Monday through Saturday, Gabert turns on his two-meter amateur radio transceiver

and calls the club members together.

His greeting is always the same: "Calling all members of the Good Morning Net. This net meets each weekday morning for the purpose of good fellowship, friendly discussion and message handling. Mobile check-ins first. Please come one at a time."

The fixed stations check in from as far away as Green Bay to the south and Washington Island to the north.

The first member to call in always is W8ECK, Mark Kronauer of Menominee, Mich., who has been talking to Gabert over the air for 62 years.

Gabert received his amateur radio license while he was in high school in 1923.

He was assigned the call letters 9JM by the predecessor of the Federal Communications Commission. His call letters were changed to W9JM when licensing procedures were changed in the early 1930s.